

American Legion Post 130
699 W. Hickpochee Ave
LaBelle, Florida 33935



Press Release

For Immediate Release

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY TO BE HELD
IN HONOR OF VIET NAM ERA HERO
SPECIALIST CLASS 4, NICHOLAS J CUTINHA
22 NOVEMBER 2008 - FT. DENAUD, FLORIDA

LABELLE, FL – 14 NOVEMBER 2008

American Legion Post 130, Labelle Florida will conduct a Memorial Service in honor of US Army Specialist Class 4, Nicholas J Cutinha, whose gallantry and selflessness saved many lives at the cost of his own. For his exemplary service under fire, Specialist Class 4 Cutinha was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously.

American Legion Post 130 is honored to be the guardian of Specialist Class 4 Cutinha's Congressional Medal of Honor which was presented to American Legion Post 130 by this hero's family so that all might be reminded of the sacrifices made by our armed forces so that we may enjoy the freedoms and rights we share as Americans.

The text of Specialist Class 4 Cutinha's Medal of Honor Citation is appended to this release.

American Legion Post 130 encourages our media to celebrate in the selflessness and gallantry of a true American Hero by joining us for this important event.

The memorial ceremony will take place on 22 November 2008 at 11AM at the Ft. Denaud Cemetery in Ft. Denaud, Florida, with a reception following at American Legion Post 130, 699 West Hickpochee Ave, LaBelle, Florida 33935.

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The Congressional Medal of Honor Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

While serving as a machine gunner with Company C, Sp4c. Cutinha accompanied his unit on a combat mission near Gia Dinh. Suddenly his company came under small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire, from a battalion size enemy unit. During the initial hostile attack, communication with the battalion was lost and the company commander and numerous members of the company became casualties.

When Sp4c. Cutinha observed that his company was pinned down and disorganized, he moved to the front with complete disregard for his safety, firing his machine gun at the charging enemy. As he moved forward he drew fire on his own position and was seriously wounded in the leg. As the hostile fire intensified and half of the company was killed or wounded, Sp4c. Cutinha assumed command of all the survivors in his area and initiated a withdrawal while providing covering fire for the evacuation of the wounded.

He killed several enemy soldiers but sustained another leg wound when his machine gun was destroyed by incoming rounds. Undaunted, he crawled through a hail of enemy fire to an operable machine gun in order to continue the defense of his injured comrades who were being administered medical treatment.

Sp4c. Cutinha maintained this position, refused assistance, and provided defensive fire for his comrades until he fell mortally wounded. He was solely responsible for killing 15 enemy soldiers while saving the lives of at least 9 members of his own unit.

Sp4c. Cutinha's gallantry and extraordinary heroism were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

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